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OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



SCHOOL SAFETY COMMISSION REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

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OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCHOOL SAFETY COMMISSION REPORT

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August 27, 1986



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OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Introduction

The Oakland Unified School District historically, has recognized the need to provide for the safety of students and staff. The district has employed many resources for schools in order to create an environment that is safe, clean, aesthetically appealing, and conducive to learning.

The School Safety Commission was conceived in concept by the Board of Education in December of 1985. An effort to combine resources of the Oakland Community with school staff was considered as a priority for the Board and the district. The Board's charge to the Commission was to make recommendations to the Board on ways by which safety in the schools could be improved.

Under the leadership of School Board Director, Sylvester Hodges, the School Safety Commission was organized in April, 1986 and divided into four Task Forces as follows:

- Security Task Force
- Curriculum Task Force
- Interagency Task Force
- Parent/Community/School Task Force

This report contains the recommendations of the Task Forces and the Commission. The report is the result of many hours of deliberation and collaboration by parents, community representatives, Governmental agency representatives, and school staff. It is presented to the Board with great faith in the future welfare of our students.

School Safety Commission Members

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Safety Commission Report

The School Safety Commission is composed of approximately seventy (70) members who represent parents, community leaders, school staff, and governmental agencies.

Members of the Commission were divided into four (4) task forces in order to focus on specific recommendations that relate to specified areas. These task forces are as follows:

1. Security Task Force

Focus: Review security procedures on school campuses to determine if they are adequate.

2. Curriculum Task Force

Focus: Review the curriculum to determine areas in which non-violence instruction is included in the curriculum. Make recommendations for the areas of need.

3. Interagency Task Force

Focus: Determine what interagency resources are available to schools. Determine how these resources may be best utilized.

4. Parent/Community/School Task Force

Focus: Determine ways in which parents can help to make our schools safer.

The Commission held three meetings. Individual task forces held from one to three meetings.

All Task Forces agree that the following factors have a direct impact upon safety in the Oakland Unified School District.

Factors That Impact Upon School Safety

1. Drug activity city-wide.
2. Interference by non-students on or about school campuses.
3. Unauthorized weapons being brought on campus.
4. Alternative programs for high-risk students.

School Safety Commission Report

5. Parent, school, and community involvement.
6. Coordination and support of other municipal, county, state, and federal agencies in improving school climate.
 - a. The District should reconsider implementing the monthly meeting of youth-serving agencies (such as Juvenile Probation, California Youth Authority, Parks and Recreation, Housing Authority, Youth Service Centers) to discuss mutual concerns and coordinate services to high-risk students and their families.
7. School curriculum programs designed to suppress drugs, alcohol abuse, and violence.

SHORT RANGE RECOMMENDATIONS

School Safety Commission Report

Recommendations

Recommendations from the Task Forces and district staff, were suggested for both short and longe range implementation.

Short Range Recommendations

Security Task Force

1. Strengthen the effectiveness of campus supervisors by training and review of district policies regarding safety and student conduct. The training should include the proper handling of discipline problems and emphasize that physical force is to be used on students only under specific circumstances.
2. Involvement of students:
 - a. Conduct a students' needs assessment.
 - b. Establish a district code of "Ethics" for all students.
 - c. Establish a district "Student Bill of Rights" (to include a grievance procedure).
 - d. Implement school safety councils at all school sites.
 - e. Secure an individual commitment from students to support the District's Student Conduct and Discipline Procedures (perhaps by development of a student contract).
 - (1) Some time should be devoted from the instructional program to review and discuss student conduct and disciplinary procedures (i.e., individual rules or regulations that apply to a particular classroom).
3. Establish/continue an ongoing dialogue between student and public safety personnel, involving grades K through 12 (fire, police, public health, military).
4. Involve parents, community, and/or outside agencies as appropriate in improving school climate.
 - a. Coordinate several drug and alcohol prevention initiatives currently in operation throughout the School District (possibly assign a single coordinator to over-see existing programs).
 - b. Implement programs to sensitize parents regarding the importance of safeguarding weapons which are stored in the home.
 - c. Request close supervision by parents of materials that are taken to the school site by their children.

School Safety Commission Report

5. Examine existing policies to insure that they support procedures and programs designed to address critical concerns.
 - a. Determine how effectively these policies are being utilized by District personnel and insist upon compliance.
 - b. Assess the degree of consistency in the enforcement of discipline and safety policies by district personnel.
6. District staff review police reports to:
 - a. Determine the most serious problems.
 - b. Establish trends
 - c. Identify problem locations, routes, times, victims, gang involvement.
7. District Police Services establish a "Walk Through" policy in schools and school communities, allowing time to leave their cars and to patrol on foot.
8. Examine each school site to:
 - a. Identify potential problem areas (both interior and exterior) and take action to eliminate, or reduce features which contribute to conditions that are conducive to undesirable activity.
9. Establish a system for announcing an emergency and its termination District-wide.
10. Establish a city-wide council of school liaison officers who meet regularly as a group with public safety personnel to discuss and explore mutual concerns and develop, when appropriate, a "team work" approach to critical issues prior to them reaching a crisis level.
11. Establish a uniform district contingency procedure to address crises, such as:
 - a. Accidental illness
 - b. Vandalism and theft
 - c. Harrassment
 - d. Possession of weapons
 - e. Assault and battery
 - f. Unauthorized persons on campus
 - g. Bomb threats
 - h. Campus unrest
 - i. Fallen aircraft
 - j. Utility failure and/or chemical spills
 - k. Fires
 - l. Earthquakes
 - m. Extortion
12. Implement programs which are designed to make parents aware of the liability factors and possible civil consequences which may result from their child's behavior.

Curriculum Task Force

1. Ninth Grade Civics/Economics and twelfth grade American Government/Economics: Develop experimental curricula for Civics/Economics and American Government/Economics whose purpose will be to ameliorate relations between Blacks, Asians, Hispanics, and Whites through a study of immigration and migration patterns, local governmental agencies and servicing of the needy, and naturalization procedures.

Impact: All ninth grade Civics/Economics students (where this course is still offered) and all twelfth grade American Government students.

Estimated Cost: \$2,000

2. American History:

Develop experimental curriculum to expand existing units dealing with immigration and migration patterns for fifth, eighth and eleventh grade American history. A generic unit without a specific grade level designation may be included here.

Impact: All fifth, eighth and eleventh grade social science students

Estimated Cost: \$2,000

3. Conflict Resolution Skills:

Develop experimental curricula for student mastery of conflict resolution skills and strategies. Existing pilot programs like DECIDE may be expanded to include conflict resolution and implemented on a district-wide basis for all elementary schools. Such curriculum development would augment existing programs like sixth grade Street Smarts program.

Impact: All elementary school pupils

Estimated Cost: \$2,000

School Safety Commission Report

4. QUEST Program:

Inservice middle/junior high school teachers, purchase teacher manuals and teaching materials.

A selected number of school personnel has received training and will begin implementing this program in September.

Impact: All middle/junior high school students at grades six, seven, or eight.

Estimated Cost: \$5,600 (training for 36 teachers, plus manuals and teaching materials).

Total Cost: \$10,000

Grand Total Curriculum Task Force \$16,000

Interagency Task Force

1. Track school violence and drug cases through criminal justice system and report dispositions.
2. Determine if Parks and Recreation could provide facilities to reward schools for "most improved" safety record.
3. Meet with Bay Area United Youth Group.
4. Explore concrete early intervention strategies.
5. Prosecute drug users and pushers as suggested and supported by representatives from the District Attorney's Office.
6. Develop a support system whereby students feel safe reporting crimes on campus to us.
7. Request that the State Department send any studies that indicate what programs work regarding violence on campus.

Parent/Community/School Task Force

1. Require mandatory parent/teacher conference at all schools.
2. Mandate inservice regarding discipline policy for students, and all school site employees.
3. Conduct discipline policy workshop, evenings or weekends for parents. (Cost to be determined)
4. Facilitate parent involvement via community assistant whose sole responsibility is to organize parents. (Cost to be determined)
5. Conduct conflict resolution workshops.
6. Implement student patrols on campus.
7. Implement "parent watch" for students going to and coming from school.
8. Provide for cultural awareness and sensitivity through program curriculum. Special programs can be done as lunch-time activity.
9. Expand translation of discipline code to language other than English. (Cost to be determined)
10. Require mandatory parental presence when students return to school for any length of suspension.

LONG RANGE RECOMMENDATIONS

School Safety Commission Report

Long Range Recommendations

Security Task Force

1. Expand alternative programs for high-risk youth, such as community school concept, continuation schools, small necessary high schools, and independent study.
2. Explore the concept of "special transition schools" with the Juvenile Justice System and County Schools Office (concept currently under consideration by the Oakland Unified School District and the County Office of Education).
3. Assign a juvenile probation officer to the high school attendance area.
4. Institute an anonymous hot-line to notify schools of possible weapons, drugs, and gang related activity.
5. Conduct thorough security checks on campus supervisors and other staff before employment with the district.
6. Promote legislation to effectively prosecute unauthorized persons on school property (investigate the use of the infraction process currently used by the Housing Authority).

The following topic has been discussed and no consensus has been reached:

- A. Close school campuses during lunch time

Curriculum Task Force

1. Conciliation Forums of Oakland, Inc:

Inservice and implement this program to impact on grade six. The program focuses on three items: 1) training of adults in the process on conflict management systems, 2) teaching the process of conflict management to students, and 3) presentation of classroom materials to students.

Estimated Cost: \$850 (25 persons for 3 days, plus release time or paid inservice time after school or before the school year, plus \$25 per school for the implementation manual, plus \$35 per teacher for classroom materials).

School Safety Commission Report

2. Parent Component of Conflict Management Training:

Develop a program for parents that would focus on teaching family conflict resolution strategies and coping with adolescent development.

Impact: Attention may be directed to selected school sites on a pilot basis and then expanded to other schools.

Estimated Cost: \$6,000

3. Western Training:

Train management school team clusters to improve school climate through the development of site strategies for dealing with school violence and drug abuse. (Oakland's Substance Abuse Office has applied for a grant from the U.S. Drug and Alcohol Division. Verbal approval has been received and training has been scheduled December 1986).

Impact: All six comprehensive high schools through school team clusters of administrators, teachers, and counselors.

Estimated Cost: \$16,000 (for the six high schools)

Grand Total Curriculum Task Force \$32,000

Parent/Community/School Task Force

1. Reestablish discipline committees - parent/school to update and use discipline handbook.
2. Establish hotlines - suicide prevention, drugs, health issues, etc.
3. Close campuses - study situation at each school site to determine feasibility.
4. Continue City-Wide Student Conferences on regular basis for their input on causes of violence and their recommendations
5. Seek out successful programs on student safety for study and possible use.
6. Establish incentive program in schools for students.
7. Psychological services should be provided regularly at all school sites.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

School Safety Commission Membership Roster

Chair: Sylvester Hodges
Facilitator: Kate E. Hodges

Security Task Force

Chair: William Smith Co-Chair: Ralph Griffin

Briggs, William	Lewis, Mayola
Green, Walter	Perrodin, Al
Harvey, Haywood	Scrimger, Glen
Hahn, Jim	Tryon, Tom
Hopkins, Artis	Williams, Winston
Leutzinger, Bill	Valles, Jose

Curriculum Task Force

Chair: Stanyan Vukovich

Collins, Nicolette	Patterson, Dorothy
Honorable Roderic Duncan	Padilla, Carlos
Hankins, Jovine	Thomas, Gwen
Hodges, Kate	Wallace, Rev. Richard
McMillian, Edwin	Wesley, Evelyn

Interagency Task Force

Chair: Helen Knudson Co-Chair: Merle Bell

Honorable Gordon Baranco	Patterson, William B.
Curtis, Jerry	Robinson, Charles
Davis, Harold	Spees, Dick/Jayne Becker
Assemblyman Elihu Harris	Honorable John Sutter
Kears, David	Turpin, John
	Warner, Peter T.

Parent/Community/School Task Force

Chair: Godfrey James Co-Chair: Phebia Richardson

Bass, Moses E.	Morgan, Neville L.
Bassette, Hugh	Raulston, Diane
Bell, Michael	Rodgers, Lila M.
Blasingame, Brenda	Rubio-Moore, Josephine
Carse, Gene	Siegel, Dan
Cleveland, Milly	Shuken, Robert
Greenwell, Jacob	Snell, Edward
Grant, Henry	Thomas, Bonnie
Handy, Clarence H.	Torres, Mirta
James, Julien W., Sr.	Upshaw, Marvin
Johnson, Norman L., Sr.	Williams, Clyde
Kain, Kate	Williams, Calvina

School Safety Commission Membership Roster - Continued

Commission Members At-Large and Guests

Alfreda Abbott
Tom Bates/Yvette Radford
Diana Brooks
Ramona Tascooe-Burris
Jay Cleckner
Geneva Clark
Michael Gordon

Elizabeth Laurenson
Richard Lewis
Michael G. Preston
Hiawatha T. Roberts
Ralph Williams
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